



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet 2015 Idaho



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2014 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$364,500
Forest Legacy	\$5,276,270
Forest Stewardship	\$194,641
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$675,000
State Fire Assistance	\$1,387,665
Urban and Community Forestry	\$238,800
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$177,300
Total	\$8,314,176

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

From Main Street to mountaintop, cooperative programs administered and implemented through partnerships between Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forests and rural economies. To guide investments in our forests, IDL utilizes the Statewide Forest Action Plan (FAP), National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy concepts and input from the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council to ensure resources are invested in areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

Program Goals:

- To provide services, tools and resources to reduce risk, improve use and increase functional value of Idaho trees and forests.
- To provide targeted information, education and assistance for improved customers' forest aptitude and management abilities.
- To promote actions and provide services to enhance our forest-based markets.
- To assess and streamline information sharing, program delivery, and strategic alignment.
- To increase cost effectiveness in all that is done.

Key Issues:

- Threats of wildfire to Idaho communities and forests both in the urban interface and in high value productive forestlands.
- Constraints on federal lands management practices.
- Stressors on forest health, including impacts from invasive species and climate change.
- Conversion from traditional forest use to non-forest use.
- Overall degradation of water quality/quantity, air quality, wildlife habitat, and bio diversity.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY 2014 Accomplishments	
Population	1,567,582	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,020
Acres of Forest Land	21,447,732	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	14,342
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,427,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	12,773
Number of NIPF Landowners	34,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	172
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	915,774	State Fire Communities Assisted	2
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,289,303	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	7,720
Number of Rural Fire Departments	254	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	201	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	78
Forest Based Employment	10,510	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	950,167
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	23,371
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights:**Conservation Education**

IDL collaborated with over 120 forestry professionals to fund and facilitate the Idaho State Forestry Contest, which provided education and a competition of forestry skills for more than 300 elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the state.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Fire protection remains a critical component of the Idaho Department of Lands with protection of forestlands, rangeland and urban interface lands included in the scope of responsibilities. Funding of this program helps hire, train, and equip firefighters for both local deployment and national incidents. This program supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache where small local fire districts can source firefighting equipment and supplies. The "Keep Idaho Green" initiative acts as the educational arm of the statewide, interagency "Idaho Firewise®" program. Additionally, Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) funding helps train and equip volunteer fire departments in rural communities.

Community Assistance – Hazardous Fuels

IDL supports a wide range of activities related to modifying vegetation, planning, and education to reduce wildfire impacts on communities. Collaboration with counties includes fiscal and contract management plus landowner education.

- Twenty (20) counties received planning, educational and hazard fuel reduction assistance.
- Seven (7) counties (Bear Lake, Bonner, Boundary, Idaho, Kootenai, Lemhi and Valley) received Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding to reduce fuel loads on private lands. Several of these projects are adjacent to similar efforts being undertaken by the US Forest Service.
- To improve efficiency in grant administration, the Community Fire Assistance Program transferred to the Forestry Assistance Bureau. Ongoing communication to educate stakeholders is occurring.

Forest Health Protection

IDL staff conducted comprehensive evaluation surveys on approximately 5.6 million acres of state and private land to detect, map and assess forest health issues. This included aerial detection of 4,751,970 acres. Additionally, field surveys were conducted for gypsy moths on 764,816 acres in northern Idaho, and Douglas-fir tussock moth on 80,008 acres. A total of 74 forest health-training sessions were held, educating 3,208 state and private landowners and managers. Staff also provided 235 technical assists.

Forest Legacy

Idaho's Forest Legacy projects assure high value forest lands will remain as sustainable, working forests while protecting vital wildlife habitat for big game and federally listed species including the grizzly bear, caribou, and lynx.

- In late 2014, IDL obtained a conservation easement on 6,847 acres of the McArthur Lake Addition project for \$4.095 million.
- In early 2015, 748 acres of the Boundary Connections project will be added for \$795,250. Due diligence has been completed on an additional 713 acres which should also close in 2015.
- Due diligence work is in progress for the McArthur Lake East project in northern ID containing 8,000 acres, utilizing \$5.25 million in Forest Legacy Program funding.
- Two (2) ID Fiscal Year 2015 Forest Legacy Project proposals are ranked third (3rd) and sixth (6th) nationally. These projects requesting \$8.2 million are pending passage of the 2015 Federal budget.

Forest Stewardship

Over 3,400 citizens were reached through the IDL Master Forest Stewards volunteer program. Trained volunteers provided more than 1,000 hours of service. Funding of the Master Forest Stewards program and the following initiatives was provided by IDL:

- Delivered the Family Forest and Land Managers Conference, reaching more than 220 landowners and managers.
- Collaborated with the University of Idaho Extension Forestry program to sponsor 31 educational sessions and two (2) workshops on family forest succession planning.
- Conducted workshops and provided education tools to educate more than 420 teachers who reached approximately 10,500 school age children through Idaho Project Learning Tree, a nationally developed environmental education program.
- Co-hosted the Idaho/Washington Forest Owners Field Day providing 24 workshops attended by over 388 participants.
- Continues to successfully collaborate with the Idaho offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Services and Farm Service Agency providing needed technical and financial assistance to forest landowners. IDL directly facilitated forest improvements such as planting and thinning on more than 1,800 acres of private lands.

Urban and Community Forestry

One hundred and six (106) cities, comprising more than 94% of Idaho's urban population, are actively managing their community trees or are developing a program to do so with the assistance of IDL's Urban & Community Forestry program. This program showcases the economic, environmental and ecological benefits of trees in Idaho communities. Sixty-four Idaho cities have been re-certified as Tree Cities USA, and three (3) – Boise, McCall and Payette – received a Growth Award for significant improvements to their tree management program. IDL continues to partner with the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association and three investor-owned utilities (Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power) to fund Arbor Day grants. Forty-five (45) Idaho cities and communities received grant funds through this program.

Addressing Issues with Special Projects

IDL collaborates with numerous partners throughout the state to develop and fund projects that address key issues and strategies within Idaho's Forest Action Plan. Highlights are presented on the following projects: Best Management Practices, Big Bear Watershed Restoration, Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy, and the Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment.

Best Management Practices

IDL, the University of Idaho and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation collaborated on the development of a new booklet, video and website to promote Forestry Best Management Practices. These educational tools target forest landowners, contractors, and professionals to illustrate appropriate forest practices. The release of these tools is timed so they will be available for the 2015 Logger Education to Advance Professionalism training sessions held throughout ID. The Idaho Forest Products Commission and Project Learning Tree are providing additional outlets for materials through presentations, workshops, and various social media platforms.

Big Bear Watershed Restoration

This project, located near Moscow ID, brings together multiple resource management organizations and forest landowners to address water quality, forest health and fire threats. Partners coordinated outreach to landowners within the project area to educate them about forest and stream restoration opportunities on their properties. Approximately eight (8) landowners are in the process of developing Forest Stewardship Plans and consulting with experts to implement recommendations for stream restoration and/or improve forest resiliency. Conversations continue with the other landowners within the project area to address their questions and encourage participation.

Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Projects

IDL coordinates federal, state and local partnerships to implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The tenets of the strategy were established from the 2009 Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, create fire-adapted communities, and strengthen wildfire response. The IDL is administering two (2) Cohesive Strategy projects in Fremont and Valley counties.

Fremont County – The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community Collaborative

- A long-term strategic plan has been developed with guidance from the Fire Learning Network.
- With over 300 community citizens in attendance, the first annual Wildfire Awareness Week was held.
- Four (4) demonstration sites were developed that highlighted fuel reduction work around homes. Eighty (80) new homeowners requested assistance.
- Homeowners slash pick-up days were held in September.
- Island Park was accepted into the national Fire Adapted Communities network.
- A Conserving Open Space award from the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region was received.

Valley County – Summer Camps and Conference Centers Project

With approximately 175 summer camps and conference centers identified in Valley County, the target of this project is to improve fire response, evacuations and Firewise® education. A GIS layer is being developed and will be merged into the Valley County Mobile Risk Assessment.

- The Education Committee of the Valley County Fire Working Group teamed with the Payette Forest Prevention Program and Ponderosa Park Ranger Interpretive Program to develop a 'train the trainer' program for camp counselors.
- Staff at the Horsethief YMCA Camp south of McCall was trained on preventing and preparing for wildfire.
- Hazard fuel treatment needs were identified at the Shiloh Bible Camp located outside of Donnelly.

Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment

The Treasure Valley Canopy Network (www.tvcanopy.net), a diverse coalition of business, non-profit, government, and academic partners that grew out of the 2010 Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment project, continues to leverage the data and tools created from this project to address critical regional urban forest issues within the greater Boise area. Three (3) key tenets—collaborate, innovate, and sustain—comprise their mission to link urban forests to infrastructure, economy, human health, ecology, and the greater community.

Highlights include:

- An Energy Saving Trees pilot program, developed by Idaho Power, provides trees to utility customers to plant in specific locations around their homes to reduce energy consumption. This project was awarded a \$300,000 State & Private Forestry grant in 2014 to create a sustainable, cost-effective, Energy Saving Trees program.
- The Boise River Enhancement Network is using canopy assessment project information for riparian restoration efforts to improve water quality.
- The Ada County Highway District is using canopy assessment data and tools to identify and model effectiveness of green stormwater infrastructure projects. They completed their first green stormwater infrastructure installation in downtown Boise using SilvaCells, which provide rooting space beneath pavement while mitigating stormwater on site. Fifteen (15) downtown blocks are scheduled for renovation in 2015 using this same technique.
- To address air quality and stormwater issues, the City of Boise Community Forestry Department is working with homeowners to plant trees in locations where insufficient right of way exists for street tree

planting.

- Treasure Valley city planners are using canopy assessment information to model site-specific cost-benefits of strategic landscaping for air quality, energy savings and stormwater management.

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